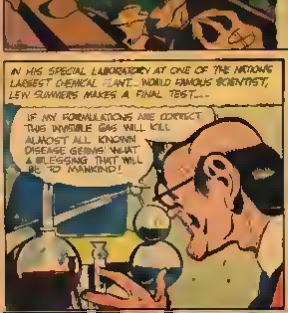
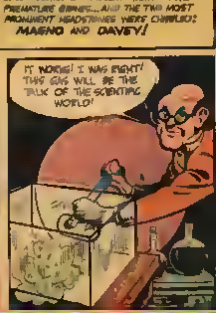
SUPER-MYSTERY
COMICS
MAGNO & DAVEY · MR. RISK · THE SWORD
AND OTHER FAST-MOVING STORIES

MAGNO AND DAVEY
Tony D'PRETA
IT WAS A SIMPLE CHEMICAL FORMULA INTENDED TO AID MANKIND'S FIGHT AGAINST SICKNESS AND DISEASE...BUT IN THE HANDS OF THE CLOWN, IT BECAME A HORRIBLE, SILENT AND INVISIBLE WEAPON OF EVIL DESTINED TO SWEEP SCORES OF INNOCENT VICTIMS INTO PREMATURE GRAVES...AND THE TWO MOST PROMINENT HEADSTONES WERE CHARLIE'S MAGNO AND DAVEY!


IN HIS SPECIAL LABORATORY AT ONE OF THE NATIONS LARGEST CHEMICAL PLANT, WORLD FAMOUS SCIENTIST, LEW SUMNERS MAKES A FINAL TEST...
IF MY FORMULATIONS ARE CORRECT, THIS INVISIBLE GAS WILL KILL ALMOST ALL KNOWN DISEASE GERMS. WHAT A BLESSING THAT WILL BE TO MANKIND!


IT WORKS! I WAS RIGHT! THIS GAS WILL BE THE TALK OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD!

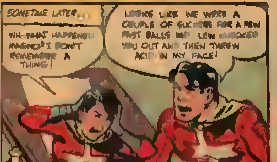
NEXT DAY MAGNO AND DAVE ARE LISTENING TO A NEWS BROADCAST...
THIS NEW DISINFECTANT IS BEING PUT INTO MASS PRODUCTION AT THE CROOKED CREEK PLANT OF THE GAMBLE CHEMICAL COMPANY!
WOW! THAT'S SOME INVENTION HUH MAGNO?
RIGHT DAVEY! AND THE WONDERFUL PART OF IT IS THAT IT'S PERFECTLY HARMLESS TO HUMAN BEINGS!
MAKE GAMBLE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEW STUFF WOULD BE SUPPLIED AT COST TO THE ARMED SERVICES, NEITHER THE INVENTOR OR COMPANY WILL PROFIT FROM IT.
THAT'S WHAT I CALL REAL PATRIOTISM
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF THE CLOWN WAS IN ON THAT DEAL?
BUT AT THAT INSTANT IN A HIDEOUT IN BETHEL...
THIS SEED BOMB WILL REMAIN SUSPENDED IN THE AIR FOR MANY HOURS AT A TIME!
THE FOOLS! CAN'T THEY SEE WHAT ELSE THEY CAN DO WITH SUCH AN INVENTION AS THAT? HA HA! I THINK I SHALL ENJOYTHIS!
WHAT FOOLS THESE MORTALS BE!
UNLESS I AM VERY WRONG - AND I SELDOM AM! THAT DEVIL CAN BE THE STEPPING STONE TO MORE POWER THAN A MORTAL EVER DREAMED OF!
THAT NIGHT AS LEN SUMMERS COMPLETES HIDDEN PLANS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF HIS CHEMICAL DISCOVERY...
LET'S SEE NOW... WE'LL RUN THE ARSENIC ACID INTO PLANT THROUGH HERE AND COMBINE IT WITH AMMONATE IN THE NUMBER 6 BUILDING! THEN...
A SHADOW MOVES BEHIND HIM AND LEN WHIRLS TO SEE...
THE CLOWN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT? HOW...
AS A MAN OF SCIENCE MR. SUMMERS YOU SHOULD KNOW ENOUGH TO ASK ONE QUESTION AT A TIME... ALLOW ME TO PRESENT MY PLAN TO YOU IN AN ORDERLY AND SCIENTIFIC MANNER!

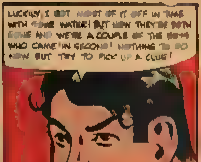
WHAT PLAN COULD YOU HAVE THAT WOULD POSSIBLY INTEREST ME? YOU...--
NOW NOW! BEFORE YOU LOVE YOUR HEAD LET ME PROCEED! I COME TO DISCUSS THE FORMULA OF YOUR NEW GAS!! GAS!!
YOU ARE A FOOL TO GIVE AWAY THIS MARVELOUS INVENTION GUMMBRS! HAVING DONE SO NOW BUT WHAT IS TO PREVENT YOU FROM MAKING A FORTUNE SIMPLY BY ALTERING THAT FORMULA JUST A TRIFLE?
WELL I COULD USE SOME MONEY!THERES NO DENYING THAT--IF OLD MAN GAMBLE HADN'T INSISTED ON MAKING THIS A NON-PROFIT PROPOSITION I WOULD HAVE PATENTED THIS GAS!!
EXACTLY! NOW THEN LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
IS IT NOT CORRECT TO ASSUME THAT YOU ADD A CHEMICAL TO THIS INVISIBLE GAS WHICH THEN KILLS INSECTS? AHA! JUST AS I THOUGHT! BUT WHAT IS TO PREVENT THE ADDITION OF A DEADLY POISON TO THAT GAS?
YOU MEAN....
AT THIS MOMENT,PRESIDENT GAMBLE PASSES TO HIGH BY THE LAB.--
WELL WE COULD SUBSTITUTE A POISON IT WOULD BE INVISIBLE IN THE AIR AND BELIEVED IT WOULD KILL INSTANTLY!
WHAT THE? I WONDER WHO'S IN THERE WITH LEW?
LEW? WHAT--WHY--ITS--THE CLOWN!
MR. GAMBLE I PRESUME! UNFORTUNATE YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED JUST NOW!!

I SHALL REPORT YOU TO THE POLICE AT ONCE! THERE IS NO...
THERE IS NO ESCAPE! WERE YOU ABOUT TO SAY? FOR YOU THERE ISN'T!
UGH!
FOOL DO YOU THINK I WOULD LET ANY MAN STAND BETWEEN ME AND THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IN THE WORLD!!
AT THAT INSTANT
I DON'T GET IT MAGNO - WHERE ARE WE HEADING FOR?
THEN MAYBE A SCREWBALL HUNCH DANEY BUT I HAVE AN IDEA THE CLOWN WILL MAKE AN ATTEMPT TO GET AT THAT ORB! VOBULA AS AS SOON AS HE CAN! IT MIGHT HURT US TO A LITTLE EXTRA-CURRICULAR CHECKING!
THIS IS THE PLANT RIGHT OVER THERE BOY!
YEAH! AND LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S IN THE LAB - THE LIGHTS ARE ON!
UP TO YOUR USUAL NASTY TRICKS I SEE!!
MAGNO! DANEY! CAN'T I EVER MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT YOU!
NOW LOOK! MAGNO! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE RUNNING SECOND TO THE CLOWN!!
MY HUNCH WASN'T JUST A HUNCH, AFTER ALL!! LET'S GO!!

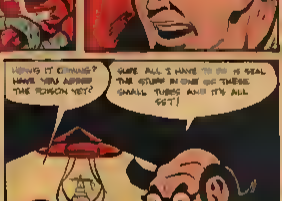
WATCH THAT DOOR, DAVEY! WE'LL FINISH THIS GUY BEFORE HE GETS STARTED THIS TIME!
MOST AMAZING CLAM, MAGNO!
HOLY TORNADOES! I CAN'T FEEL ME, GAMBLER'S PULSE AT ALL!
AND AS MAGNO AND THE CLOWN LOCK IN DEADLY CONFRONTATION - - -
MR. SUMMERS! COME HERE! WE CAN GAMBLE
SAY WHAT? OH- YES! MAYBE WE CAN!
IF GAMBLE EVER COMES TO, HE'LL TESTIFY THAT I WAS COLLABORATING WITH THE CLOWN! I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
YES YES! RIGHT, ANNA!
IF YOU'LL CLEAR THAT SPACE OVER THERE, I'LL -
THAT TAKES CARE OF YOU ANYHOW!
WHAT ARE YOU - - LISH!?
MEANTIME IN A FAR CORNER OF THE LAB MAGNO IS ABOUT TO OVERPOWER THE CLOWN - -
STOP! YOU'RE CHOKING ME TO DEATH. LET ME UP! I SURRENDER!
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE KIDDING IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU! A LIGHT - ON YOUR FEET.

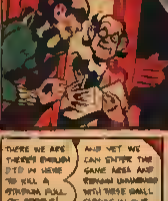
WELL, I GUESS YOU HAVE ME THIS TIME MAGNO! YOU'RE JUST LUCKY!!
NOW IF HE DOESN'T WEAR ME FOR A SECOND.
SUMMERS! YOU'RE IN ON THIS TOO?
YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO IDENTIFY ME! HERE--TAKE THIS!!
OKAY, NOW MOVE AROUND TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF THE LAB. WHAT'S THIS?
SEE HOW YOU LIKE AN ACID BATH, HERO!
HA HA! NICE WORK SUMMERS! COME ON!
DRAT!--DRAT! STOP 'EM! THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!
HA HA LOUDER, MAGNO? LOUDER AND FUNNIER, IF POSSIBLE!

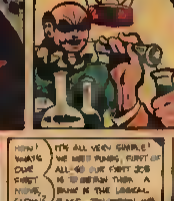

SOMETIME LATER...
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT GUY? I DON'T REMEMBER A THING!
LOOKS LIKE WE WERE A COUPLE OF SUCKERS FOR A NEW FIRST BALLS MP! LEW KNOCKED YOU OUT AND THEN THREW ACID IN MY FACE!

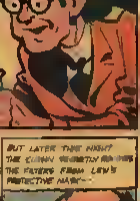

LUCKILY, I GOT MOST OF IT OFF IN TIME WITH SOME WATER! BUT NOW THEY'RE GONE AND WE'RE A COUPLE OF THUGS WHO CAME IN SECOND! NOTHING TO GO ON BUT TRY TO PICK UP A CLUE!

NEXT DAY IN CLOWN'S SECRET HIDEOUT...
AHA, I'LL MANAGED TO OBTAIN THE NECESSARY CHEMICALS AT THE SHOP!
I'VE GOT BAD, CLOWN! WE'LL HAVE OUR REVENGE IN NO TIME AT ALL!


HOWDY, IT CLOWNS? HAVE YOU ASPIRED THE POISON YET?
SURE ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SEAL THE STUFF IN ONE OF THESE SMALL TUBES AND IT'S ALL SET!


THERE WE ARE! THERE'S ENOUGH STUFF IN HERE TO KILL A STADIUM FULL OF PEOPLE!
AND YET WE CAN SMUGGLE THE GAME AREA AND REMAIN UNARMED WITH THESE SMALL CAPSULES IN OUR MOUTHS. VERY GOOD, SUMMERS! WONDERFUL!


NOW! WHAT'S OUR FIRST MOVE, CLOWN?
IT'S ALL VERY SIMPLE! WE WILL PUMP, FIRST OF ALL, SO OUR FIRST JOB IS TO BREAK THEM A BANK IN THE LOGICAL PLACE - THE BANK WE STRIKE AT THE FIRST NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY!


BUT LATER THAT NIGHT THE CLOWN SECRETLY ENTERS THE PLEXUS FROM LEW'S PROTECTIVE WARE...

NEXT MORNING SHORTLY AFTER THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OPENS...
THIS SHOULD BE EASY LIKE TAKING CANDY AWAY FROM A BABY! ALL I DO IS WALK IN HERE...
REMOVE THE CORK AND DROP THE FLASK IN HERE!
NOT A SOUL NOTICED ME! THIS IS TOO PERFECT TO BE TRUE! NOW IN A FEW MINUTES WE SHALL RETURN, COLLECT A FORTUNE!
DID YOU PLANT IT? DID ALL GO AS WE PLANNED?
EVERYTHING IS SET DOWN! LET'S PUT THOSE FILTER PLUGS IN OUR NOSES AND GET GOING!
HERE YOU ARE!
HA HA! BUT WITH THE FILTERS REMOVED YOU FOOL!
MEANTIME INSIDE THE BANK INNOCENT CITIZENS ARE INHALING A TERRIBLE BREATH AS SUMMERS INVISIBLE GAS TAKES ITS TOLL...!
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LOOK! THEYRE RUN... LIKE RUGS— NOBODY CAN STOP US!
I TOLD YOU THAT STUFF WOULD WORK! LETS SWING THE DOUGH!
CLOWN-CLOWN THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY PETER-I CAN'T BREATHE!
HA HA! YOU SERVED YOUR PURPOSE FOOL! I HAVE YOUR FORMULA AND THAT'S ALL I NEED! DIE LIKE A DOG THAT YOU ARE!
WEALTH AND WITH WEALTH COMES POWER AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE EMPIRE I SHALL BUILD! THIS TIME I HAVE AN UNBEATABLE PLAN!
I HAVE TO GET AIR— ONLY FEW SECONDS BEFORE I DIE!
HELP! POLICE! CLOWN-MASKED DEADLY GANGSTER!
MOTHER OF MERCY!
SHOOTING HIS REVOLVER INTO THE AIR THE OFFICER GIVES THE POLICE SIGNAL FOR A MAJOR CATASTROPHE!

LISTEN! DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
YOU'RE NOT KIDDING MAGNO! LET'S GO!
THAT'S THE SIGNAL FOR SOMETHING TERRIFIC BEING PULLED!
I NEVER GAIN IT TO FAIL THAT MEANS THE CLOWN'S SOMEWHERE AROUND!
LOOKS LIKE THAT'S WHERE ALL THE TROUBLE IS!
A BANK! WOULDN'T YOU JUST KNOW IT!
WELL MISS MERRIWEATHER'S SON WAS NEVER THE ONE TO WAIT FOR DEVELOPMENTS! IF THAT CLOWN IS IN THERE, I'LL GO AND GET 'M!
WAIT STOP WHERE YOU ARE OR I'LL SHOOT YOU FULL OF...AG-UGH!
HA! HA! HA! ONCE A COP- ALWAYS A FOOL!
AH-SAFE! NOBODY TO STOP ME ANYWHERE! BUT-WH WHAT- MAGNO AN' DANNY NEAR! BUT THIS TIME I SHALL MAKE GOOD WITH MY ESCAPE!

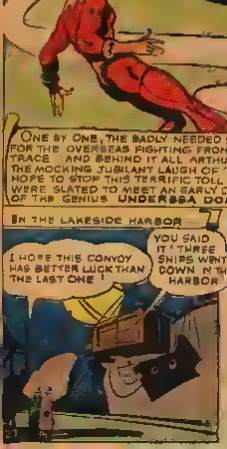
SPRINTING DOWN THE ALLEY, THE CLOWN MAKES HIS ESCAPE THROUGH VACANT BUILDINGS...
AND A FEW SECOND LATER...
HE'S DOWN THIS ALLEY, SOMEWHERE!
HA HA! THE FOOLS! LET THEM SEARCH THE ALLEY ALL DAY! I HAD THIS ALL PLANNED! NOW TO GOING TO THE PLANT AND LOAD UP WITH THE EVIL ENOUGH CHEMICALS TO...TO DEVASTATE THE EARTH!
THIS BUILDING WOULD BE JUST THE PLACE HE'D GO FOR!
MAGNO! LOOK! OUT FRONT THERE! THE CLOWN'S GETTING AWAY IN THAT CAR!
WELL, JUST TRAIL THAT HOT RODDED AND SEE WHERE HE'S HEADED FOR!
TWO BITS SAYS THAT HE'S HEADED FOR THE CHEMICAL PLANT! REMEMBER--IT'S CLOWED DOWN TODAY!
IT WILL BE JUST A MATTER OF MINUTES UNTIL I COMPLETE MY WORK HERE... THEN ANY SKILLED SPOT WILL DO FOR A HIDEOUT!

REACHING THE LABORATORY THE CLOWN QUICKLY BEGINS TO ASSEMBLE HIS NECESSARY MATERIALS—
HYDROCHLORIC ACID—ARSENIC ACID—POWDERED LEAD—CALCIUM—THAT'S ALL I NEED! NOW TO GO INTO THE MIXING ROOM!
I'LL HAVE TO GO UP ON THE CATWALK TO GET SOME OF THAT TUCALENE FROM THOSE BIG VATS! THAT'S ONE THING THAT CAN'T BE MADE EXCEPT IN A BIG PLANT LIKE THIS!
THERE HE IS ON THE CATWALK!
COME ON! LET'S GET HIM! HE DOESN'T KNOW WE'RE HERE YET!
OKAY, WISE GUY! HERE'S THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU!
YOU AGAIN! YOU'LL NEVER GET ME THIS TIME!
STOP! LOOKOUT, FOR THAT VAT!
WITHOUT HESITATION THE CLOWN DIVES—
GREAT CRIKES! THAT STUFF IN THERE WILL DISSOLVE A HUMAN AS IF IT WERE A LUMP OF SUGAR!
HEH! HEH! I'VE GOT HIS NOZZLE AT LAST! BUT WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE!
DESPERATE OF HIS FATE THE DANCER
BUY BONDS
AND STAMPS TO KEEP OUT THE AXIS TRAINED

The SWORD

ONE BY ONE, THE BADLY NEEDED SUPPLY SHIPS LEAVING THE HARBOR FOR THE OVERSEAS FIGHTING FRONTS WERE BLOWN TO BITS WITHOUT A TRACE AND BEHIND IT ALL ARTHUR LAKE AND LANCE LARTER COULD HEAR THE MOCKING JUBILANT LAUGH OF THE GENIUS BUT HOW COULD THEY HOPE TO STOP THIS TERRIFIC TOLL OF HUMAN LIVES WHEN THEY TOO WERE SLATED TO MEET AN EARLY DEATH IN THE SHARK INFESTED WATERS OF THE GENIUS **UNDERSEA DOMAIN OF DOOM!!**

IN THE LAKESIDE HARBOR


I HOPE THIS CONVOY HAS BETTER LUCK THAN THE LAST ONE!
YOU SAID IT! THREE SHIPS WENT DOWN IN THE HARBOR
THERE THEY GO!
I'M NOT STICKIN' AROUND TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS THIS TIME! THOSE TUBS ARE LOADED WITH DYNAMITE!

I BETTER GET TO THE GENIUS AND TELL HIM TO START SETTIN' READY TO PICK OFF THEM BOATS NOW!
HM WONDER IF THAT FELLOW HOLDS THE CLUE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR? I THINK I'LL TAIL HIM AND SEE WHERE HE GOES!
MEANTIME, ARTHUR LAKE AND LANCE LANYER HAVE THEIR GLASSES TRAINED ON THE WATERFRONT.
I'M STILL POSITIVE THAT THE GENIUS IS BEHIND THESE SHIP SINKINGS!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, PARTNER, BUT HE HASN'T TIPPED HIS HAND YET
LANCE! LOOK! DOWN THERE BY THAT OLD WAREHOUSE! SEE THAT GUY SNEAKING ALONG TOWARDS THE HOTEL!
SURE! I SEE HIM! IS THAT THE MYSTERIOUS "MR SMITH" WE'VE HAD OUR EYES ON EVER SINCE THE SHIPS WENT DOWN?
NO! BUT I SEE OUR FRIEND, MR SMITH - OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS - TRAILING THAT OTHER GUY! SOMETHING FISHY'S GOING ON!
I THINK YOU'RE SUSPICIOUS OVER NOTHING BUT LET'S GO!
WELL, THERE GO YOUR VILLIANS INTO THE HOTEL! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
HM! GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, LANCE! CERTAINLY NOTHING THEY COULD DO ABOUT SINKING A CONVOY FROM THERE! JUST ANOTHER BUM STEER!

A FEW SECONDS LATER, IN THE HOTEL LOBBY—
I GUESS THE COAST IS CLEAR! HERE GOES!
MAKING A PHONE CALL IS HE? WELL, I'LL JUST STROLL OVER THERE!
THIS IS SURE SOME IDEA TH' GENIUS GOT HIMSELF! ALL YOU DO IS PRESS A BUTTON UP HERE! AN'—
IT NEVER FAILS! THERE IS TH' SECRET PASSAGEWAY! WHAT A BRAIN THAT GENIUS IS!
NOW TO GET DOWN TO TH' WORKSHOP AN TELL TH' GENIUS TH' GOOD NEWS!
NOW TO EASE OVER THERE AND GET A LINE ON THE GAB!

HEY! WHAT'S UP! THERE'S NOBODY IN HERE!
SO THAT'S IT! PHONE BOOTH COMPLETE WITH SECRET PANELS! EH? WELL, I'LL JUST FOLLOW OUR MYSTERIOUS FREIND THIS TRIP!
AT THAT MOMENT, MOE LYNN PAUSES AT THE NEWSTAND
I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE A GOOD CIGAR SAY SOMETHING IN THE 5¢ LINE
SURE, MISTER BUT WOULD YOU MIND TAKING THIS CHANGE TO THAT MAN WHO JUST WENT INTO THAT PHONE BOOTH? HE FORGOT IT
HM...NOBODY HERE! BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN I SAW THE GUY GO IN HERE!
I'M AFRAID YOUR ABSENT-MINDED FRIEND HAS LEFT THE PREMISES MY GOOD WOMAN NOW, IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO PURCHASE A GOOD STOGIE
MOST UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT GENTLEMAN COULD HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM THE PHONE BOOTH! AH, WELL! AS THE FRENCH SAY "C'EST LA GUERRE"

MEANTIME HAVING FOLLOWED THE SECRET PASSAGEWAY TO THE GENIUS UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM ,
HI-YA , GENIUS ' I GOT SOME HOT NEWS FOR YOU !
YES , MUGSY ? WHAT IS IT ?
THAT CONVOY THAT WAS ASSEMBLIN IN THE HARBOR IS STARTIN' TO MOVE ! AN BOY ! IT'S LOADED WITH AN AWFUL LOT OF BOOM-BOOM STUFF !
GOOD WORK , MUGSY ! AH ANY SENSITIZED EARPHONES GIVE ME THE LOCATION , SPEED AND SIZE OF THE SHIPS AIREADY . GOOD , GOOD !
BUT YOUR ELECTRICAL GADGETS DIDN'T PICK UP MY APPROACH , DID THEY , GENIUS ? GET 'EM UP BOTH OF YOU !
HUH ? HOW DID..
AH , MR FORD OF THE FBI , I BELIEVE . WELL , WELL
THAT'S RIGHT , GENIUS AND NOW , NAY !
AND NOW THIS IS THE END OF THE TRAIL FOR YOU - MR FORD !
AND HOW DO YOU LIKE THE LITTLE PLAYMATE WE HAVE FOR YOU ? ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHATTER THE GLASS - AND YOU ARE FINISHED ! HOWEVER , I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOU , MR FORD
LOOK BEHIND YOU MR FORD ! YOU WILL SEE WHAT APPEARS TO BE A TORPEDO TUBE ! AND IN JUST ONE SECOND , I AM RELEASING YOU INTO IT WHERE YOU WILL BE SHOT TO THE SURFACE OF THE HARBOR . BUT THE PRESSURE IS MORE THAN ANY HUMAN CAN STAND ! GOOD BYE , MR FORD !

MEANWHILE, MOE LYNN HAS DECIDED TO GO FISHING . .
BLESS ME 'MY OLD PAL, SEAHOOK MCGURK IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT! AH, WELL HE WON'T MIND MY BORROWINGS ONE OF HIS TRUSTY BOATS FOR A BIT!
THIS IS THE LIFE! NO WORRIES - NO UNTOWARD EVENTS TO UPSET THE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY OF THE GENTLY ROLLING SWELLS!
SUDDENLY . .
ZOUNDS!
BY THE BRACE OF BRAGGONICULLIEY IT IS THE FELLOW WHO DISAPPEARED FROM THE TELEPHONE BOOTH
NO! BUT SAY THAT LOOKS LIKE MOE OUT THERE IN THAT ROWBOAT AND HOLY HANNAH HE'S PULLED SOME BODY OUT OF THE WATER! COME ON
HURRY PHONE BOOTH BELL... BUDDY
THE POOR FELLOW IS DEAD - BUT WHAT WERE THOSE WORDS ? I'D BETTER GET TO SHORE AND REPORT THIS UNTIMELY OCCURENCE!
SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS YET, ARTHUR?

ZOUNDS! WHAT A HARROWING EXPERIENCE! THERE I WAS, CONTEMPLATING...
NEVER MIND THE FANCY WORDS, MOB! WHAT HAPPENED?
PRECISELY WHAT I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, THERE I WAS, AND THERE HE WAS AND ALL HE SAID WAS SOMETHING ABOUT A PHONE BOOTH AND A BELL BOY!
PHONE BOOTH? BELL BOY? OBVIOUSLY IT WAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE HOTEL BUT I DON'T GET IT! LET'S SEE IF HE HAS ANY PAPERS
ARTHUR! LOOK AT THIS! UNLESS THESE ARE FORGED, THIS POOR DUCK'S NAME IS FORD AND HE WAS AN F.B.I. MAN!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LANCE! BUT I WISH WE KNEW WHAT TO DO NEXT
OH, BY THE BY - ONE OTHER PIECE OF INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE BOYS - SHORTLY BEFORE THIS OCCURED, I SPIED OUR LATE FRIEND ENTERING A PHONE BOOTH IN THE HOTEL ... AND THEN HE DISAPPEARED!
WHAT! LANCE! THAT'S OUR CLUE!
THAT'S WHERE THE SWORD AND THE LANCE SHOULD STEP IN! YOU GET UP TO THE HOTEL AND SEE WHAT YOU COULD FIND OUT ABOUT OUR MYSTERIOUS BELL BOY AND THE PHONE BOOTH. I'M GOING FOR EXCALIBUR!
RIGHT! GOOD LUCK, BOY!
AND I SUPPOSE THAT LEAVES ME TO EXPLAIN THIS BAFFLING RIDDLE TO THE AUTHORITIES! ZOUNDS!

GUESS THAT'S THE HONE BOOTH MOE WAS TALKING ABOUT! CERTAINLY LOOKS ORDINARY ENOUGH, BUT WE'LL SEE!
IF THE GENIUS IS REALLY BEHIND THESE SHENANIGANS YOU CAN BET THERE'S SOME KIND OF A GADGET RIGGED UP IN HERE-. NOW LET'S SEE!
BY GOLLY, I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING UNUSUAL! LOOKS LIKE ---
IT IS! THAT BUTTON OPENS A SECRET DOOR PANEL! NOW TO FOLLOW IT!
I HATE TO RUSH IN LIKE A SAP, BUT EVERY MINUTE MAY COUNT!
WHATEVER IT IS I'M GETTING INTO - THERE IT IS AT THE END OF THE PASSAGE!
THE GENIUS WAS RIGHT SOMEBODY WAS LAYIN TO FOLLOW UP THAT G MAN! HM! AND DARNED IF IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THAT PESKY KID WHO'S BEEN PLAYIN DETECTIVE!

LOOKA THE CANARY I CAUGHT FLYIN' RIGHT INTO OUR CAGE @ENIUS!
THE LATTER BRAT! GOOD! WE SHALL DISPOSE OF HIM FORTHWITH! PREPARE TO THROW HIM TO THE SHARK!
THIS WILL INDEED BE GREAT SPORT! IN FACT, LET US RELEASE THE STUPID POOL INTO THE HARBOR AND SEND THE SHARK AFTER HIM! A FITTING END FOR THE TROUBLE HE HAS CAUSED US!
THIS GUY IS HEAVIER THAN YOU THINK! UGH! THERE HE IS! OKAY!
BUT AT THAT INSTANT, ARTHUR LAKE REACHES THE SECRET HIDING PLACE OF EXCALIBUR
THEN A RESOUNDING CRASH OF THUNDER AND ARTHUR LAKE BECOMES ONCE MORE THE INVINCIBLE AND MIGHTY SWORD!
AND AT THE SAME INSTANT, HIS BODY CATAPULTED INTO THE TURBULENT WATERS OF THE HARBOR, LANCE LARTER BECOMES THE LANCER!
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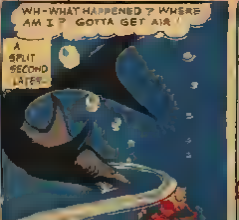
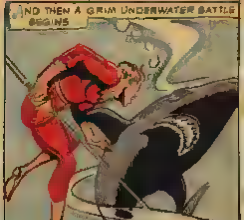
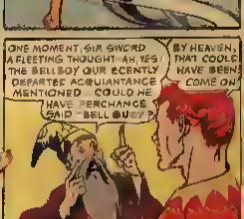
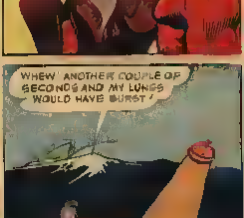

WH-WHAT HAPPENED ? WHERE AM I ? GOTTA GET AIR !
A SPLIT SECOND LATER—


AND THEN A GRIM UNDERWATER BATTLE BEGINS

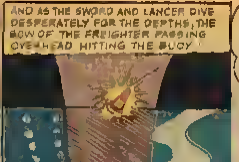
RACING ALMOST WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE SWORD STREAKS TOWARD THE WATERFRONT !
MERLIN ! OVER HERE
HM ZOUNDS AND GADZOOKS !

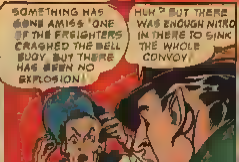

ONE MOMENT, SIR SWORD A FLEETING THOUGHT - AH, YES ! THE BELLBOY OUR RECENTLY DEPARTED ACQUAINTANCE MENTIONED COULD HE HAVE PERCHANCE SAID "BELL BUOY" ?
BY HEAVEN, THAT COULD HAVE BEEN ! COME ON !

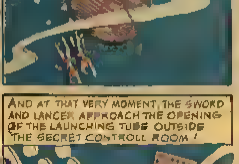
AND AS MERLIN AND THE SWORD SPEED TOWARD THE HARBOR...
THAT OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK ! BUT THANK HEAVENS I HAVE THE AID OF MY LANCE OR I'D BE A GONNER BY NOW !

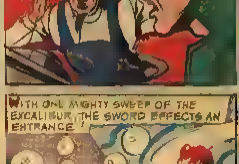

WHEW ! ANOTHER COUPLE OF SECONDS AND MY LUNGS WOULD HAVE BURST !

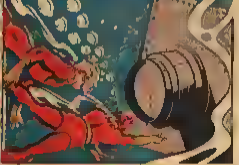
WHAT'S THAT TICKING NOISE I HEAR? CAN'T BE MY HEART BEATING THAT FAST AND HEAVY. HM! SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THIS BUOY!
SWORD MERLIN! BOY, AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU!
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED, LANCE? MERLIN HERE HAS A HUNCH THAT
GADZOOKS! LOOK! THAT FREIGHTER IS CHANGING COURSE AND COMING HERE!
WONDER, NOTHING! LISTEN TO THIS BELL BUOY. IT'S TICKING LOUDER THAN EVER! THIS IS SOME KIND OF A GADGET THE GENIUS HAS RIGGED UP!
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WHEN THOSE OTHER SHIPS BLEW UP!
GREAT SCOTT! WILL YOU LOOK WHAT'S IN HERE! A COUPLE OF VIALS OF NITRO GLYCERINE!
ENOUGH TO BLOW THIS WHOLE HARBOR TO KINGDOM COME!
HURRY, MAKE HASTE! THAT BEHEMOTH OF THE SEAS IS NGW UPON US!
WE'VE ONLY GOT ONE CHANCE, LANCE! EACH OF US TAKE ONE OF THESE VIALS AND DIVE FOR THE BOTTOM!
GADZOOKS IF I HEAR AN EXPLOSION IN THE NEXT SECOND, I WON'T HEAR ANYTHING ELSE FOREVER!


AND AS THE SWORD AND LANCER DIVE DESPERATELY FOR THE DEPTHS, THE BOW OF THE FREIGHTER PASSING OVERHEAD HITTING THE BUOY !


SOMETHING HAS GONE AMISS ! ONE OF THE FREIGHTERS CRASHED THE BELL BUOY, BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EXPLOSION !
HUH ? BUT THERE WAS ENOUGH NITRO IN THERE TO SINK THE WHOLE CONVOY !


AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE SWORD AND LANCER APPROACH THE OPENING OF THE LAUNCHING TUBE OUTSIDE THE SECRET CONTROL ROOM !


WITH ONE MIGHTY SWEEP OF THE EXCALIBUR, THE SWORD EFFECTS AN ENTRANCE !


LET ME OUT OF HERE ! IT IS THE SWORD AND LANCER !
THE FOOLS ! I SHALL BLOW THEM TO BITS WITH AN ELECTRICAL CHARGE !

I'D THINK TWICE ABOUT THAT, GENIUS ! ANYTHING YOU DO TO US NOW WILL BLAST YOU TO BITS TOO !
THAT'S RIGHT, GENIUS ! WE'RE EACH CARRYING SOME OF THAT NICE STUFF YOU INTENDED FOR THE CONVOY ! HERE IT IS !

THEN WE'LL ALL DIE! YOU'LL NEVER CAPTURE US ALIVE
YOU BETTER SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, GENIUS! I AIN'T GONNA DIE! GET YOUR MITS OFF'N THAT SWITCH
YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THE GENIUS MUGSY! NOW LEAD US OUT OF HERE!
HERE, LANCER! HELP ME ATTACH THESE WIRES TO THAT TIMER! IN TWENTY MINUTES, THIS PLACE WILL BE BLOWN TO SHREDS
AND I HOPE WE'RE NOWHERE IN THE VICINITY!
SOME TIME LATER...
HERE, SIR, ARE THE SABOTEURS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SINKING OF YOUR CONVOYS!
BUT THANKS TO YOU THEY DIDN'T GET THIS ONE TODAY! BUT WHAT ABOUT THEIR UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM? IF THAT EVER FELL INTO THE HANDS OF
WH - WHAT WAS THAT?
THE UNDERGROUND CONTROL ROOM, SIR! IT'LL NEVER BE USED BY ANY-ONE AGAIN!
THE SWORD AND LANCER TRIUMPHED THIS TIME BUT NOBODY CAN HUMILIATE THE GENIUS LIKE THIS AND GET AWAY WITH IT! I SHALL TRACK THEM TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH AND REVENGE MYSELF FOR THIS OUTRAGE!
WHAT IS THE NEXT MOVE OF THE UNFATHOMABLE GENIUS? WHAT FIENDISH PLAN WILL HIS TWISTED BRAIN EVOLVE TO OUTDOWN THE SWORD AND LANCER? BE SURE TO SEE THE NEXT ISSUE OF SUPER-MYSTERY COMICS AS WE THRILLING SAGA THE ADVENTURES OF THE GENIUS!